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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY DJS DATE 9/20/82
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SU, IS, IZ
SUBJECT: SUDANESE REPORTING OF ARAB AMBASSADORS' MEETING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN ON ISRAELI ATOMIC REACTOR STRIKE

1. SUDANESE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT REAGAN AND AMBASSADORS FROM SUDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, BAHRAIN, AND MOROCCO STRESSED THE LEADERSHIP OF SUDANESE AMBASSADOR OMER SALIH ESSA IN MARSHALING ARAB CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI'S JUNE 7 AIRSTRIKE AGAINST IRAQ'S ATOMIC REACTOR. THE JUNE 13 SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) ACCOUNT QUOTED AMBASSADOR ESSA AS HAVING QUESTIONED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN AMERICAN FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTACK.

2. ADDRESSING AMERICAN ACTIONS PRIOR TO THE ATTACK, SUNA REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR ESSA TOLD PRESIDENT REAGAN THAT, "ISRAEL WOULD DARE NOT CARRY OUT SUCH AN IRRESPONSIBLE AGGRESSION WITHOUT THE UNCONDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IT RECEIVES FROM THE U.S." THE SUNA ACCOUNT CONTINUED, QUOTING AMBASSADOR ESSA: "ALTHOUGH WE APPRECIATE THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY (THE) U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THIS RESPECT, WE FEEL THAT THEY HAVE NOT AFFECTED THE ISRAELI ATTITUDE

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OF INTRANSIGENCE AND CONCEIT. THAT WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A U.S. COMPLICITY IN THIS AGGRESSION."

3. THE SUNA ACCOUNT BALANCED AMBASSADOR ESSA'S GUARDED ALLEGATION BY REPORTING THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN TOLD THE AMBASSADORS THAT THE RAID COMPLETELY STUNNED THE U.S. SUNA ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT DENIED THAT THE U.S. HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE ATTACK BEFORE IT OCCURED AND REPORTED PRESIDENT REAGAN STATED THAT HAD THE U.S. HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE IMPENDING ATTACK, IT WOULD HAVE SETTLED THE ISSUE BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS.

4. DRAWING SOME OF THE STING FROM THE QUOTED INSULTS, SUNA CONCLUDED: "FOLLOWING THE MEETING ESSA TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THEIR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD BEEN POSITIVE AND ENABLED HIM (REAGAN) TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH ARAB

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REACTION TO THE ISRAELI BEHAVIOR WHICH HAD IGNORED ALL
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND LAW." KONTOS
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